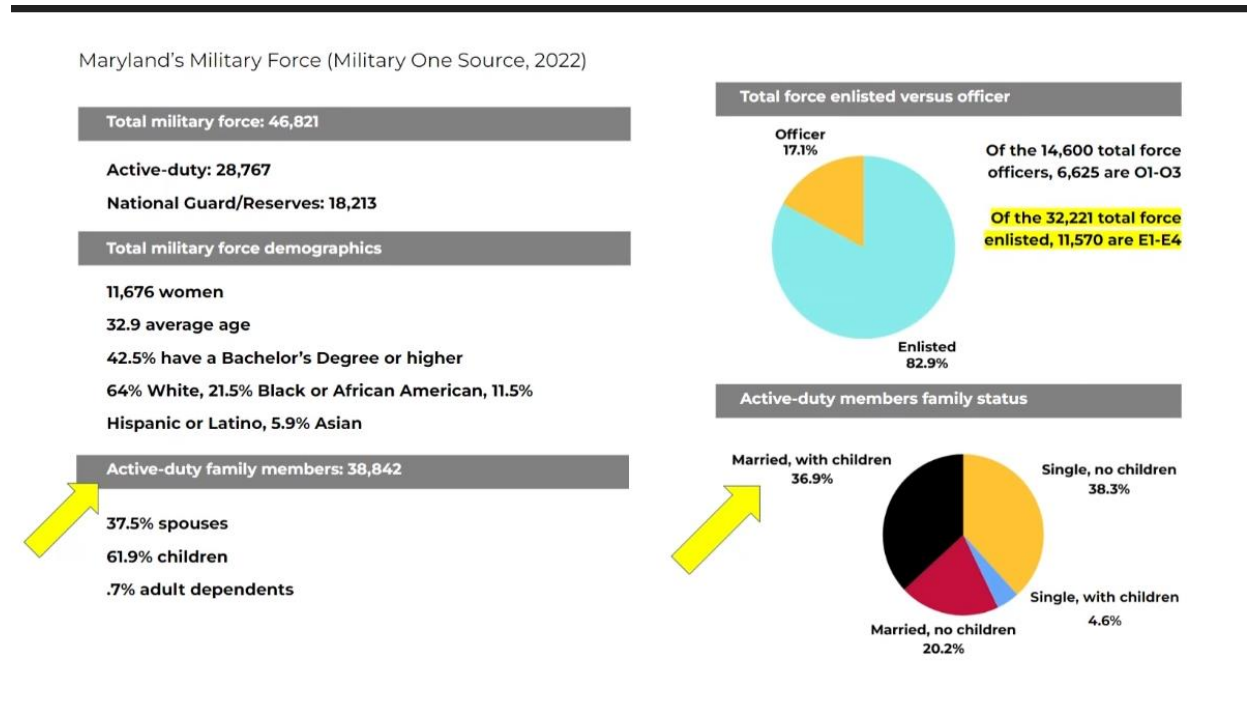


Meeting of the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families Commission. July 11, 2024.

These slides were presented during the Commission report (screen captures). For information.

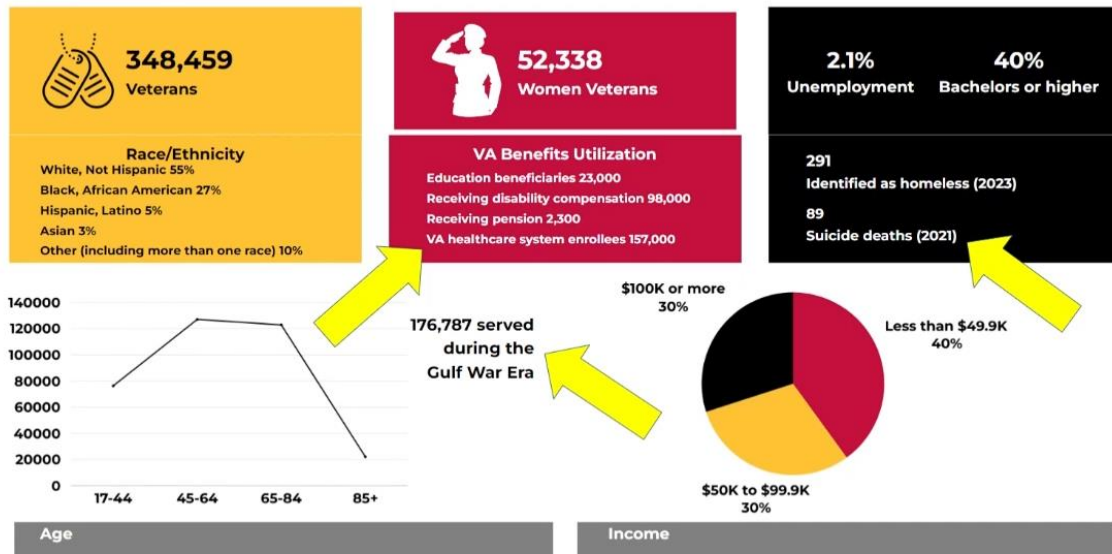


(Above) Building blocks as stated by Secretary Woods to make Maryland the best state for veterans and military families.



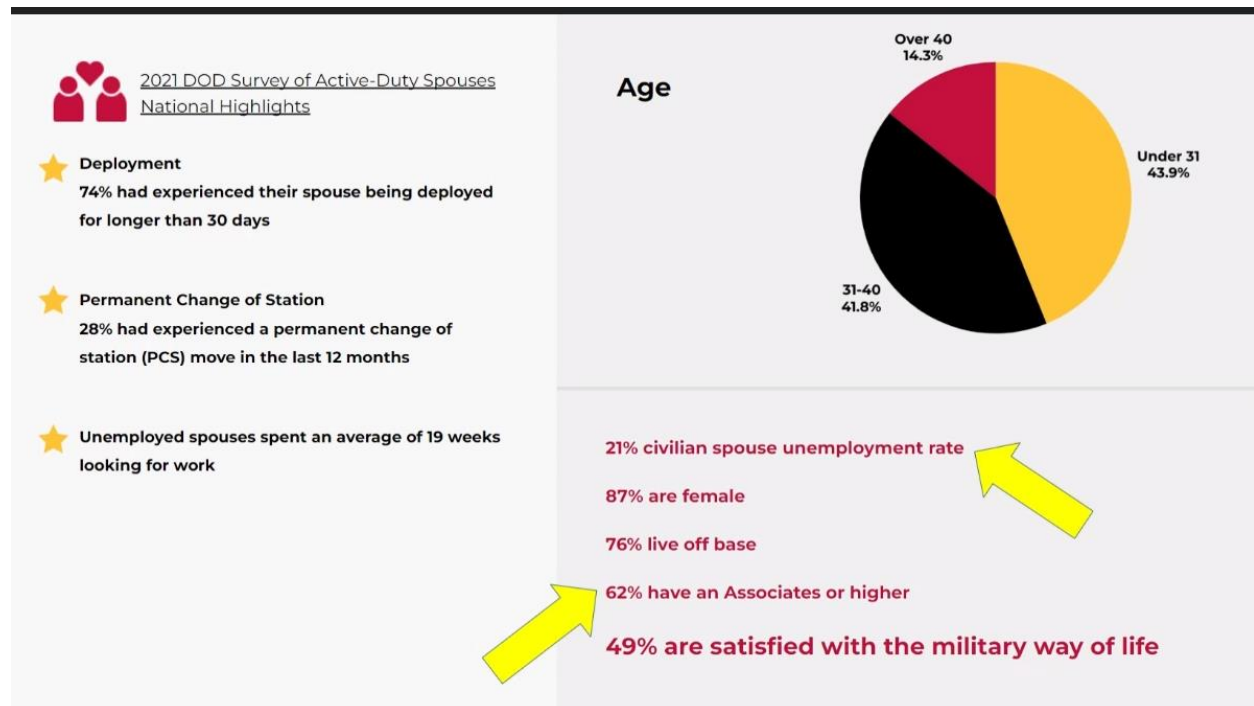
(Above) The Point stated by the Commission is that there are several lower enlisted who may face food and housing insecurity.

Maryland's Veteran Population*



*Source: DVMF 2023 Annual Report

(Above) Note the number who use, and don't use VA Healthcare. It was stated that most veterans who are victims of suicide do not use the VHA. Fasted growing veteran populations, as stated by the Commission, are rural and female.



(Above) The commission noted the difficulty of military spouses to find and hold jobs due to the transient nature of the military. It was added that childcare costs are high, limiting some military spouses from seeking employment.



Food Insecurity

According to the 2023 Operation Homefront Annual Report

23% of veterans and military families report being food insecure



Active duty spouses are food insecure*



Are low food security*



Are very low food security*

Family and Employment Status % who are food insecure*

27% Families with children under 6 years old

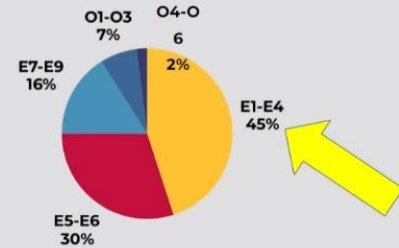
24% Families without children under 6 years old

41% Spouse is unemployed

22% Spouse is employed

*2021 DOD Survey of Active-Duty Spouses: Food Security

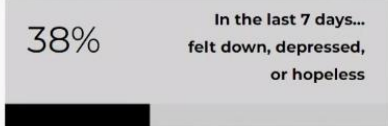
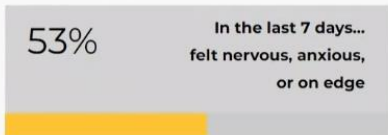
Food Insecurity by Rank/Paygrade*



(Above) Food insecurity is an issue with veterans and military.



2021 DOD Survey of Active-Duty Spouses
Health and Wellness
National Highlights
(total responses 594,110 active duty spouses)



2023 DOD Suicide Prevention Annual Report

Service member and family member deaths

2022 Service Member Deaths	492
Active Duty	331
Reserves	64
National Guard	97

2021 Family Member Deaths	168
Spouses	114
Dependents	54

69% of dependent deaths were youth under 18 years old

2023 New DOD Actions to Prevent Suicide in the Military

Five Lines of Effort

- Foster a supportive environment
- Improve the delivery of mental health care
- Address stigma and other barriers to care
- Revise suicide prevention training
- Promote a culture of lethal means safety

(Above) Suicide factors for Military Spouses and Children.